

Rio's Legacy FY24 Annual Report



Dear Rio's Legacy Community and Supporters,

As we reflect on FY24, Rio's Legacy has made significant strides towards our mission of building a much-needed children's hospice in Western Sydney. This year has been a period of tremendous growth, marked by inspiring partnerships, successful fundraising events, and increased awareness of the urgent need for paediatric palliative care in our region.

None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support. Together, we are trying to make a real difference in the lives of children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

With Thanks,

Ryan Fowler

Chairperson & Co-Founder, Rio's Legacy

2023 Key Achievements

Building Momentum for a Western Sydney Hospice

In 2023, Rio's Legacy made significant inroads in our plans to establish a hospice in Western Sydney. We worked closely with **Leah D'Souza (Medical Consultant)** and **Adam Goodwin (Director of Actus Associates)**, to lay the foundation for this important facility. Together, we accomplished:

- Creation of a **Model of Care** documentation for paediatric palliative care (the first of its kind in NSW)
- Development of a **Functional Brief**
- Preliminary drawings, concepts, and designs for the proposed hospice



In addition, we held numerous meetings with the **NSW Ministry of Health** and the **State Government** to discuss the need for a hospice in Western Sydney. We gathered valuable research and data to demonstrate the growing demand for paediatric palliative care, ensuring that the project is well-supported by evidence.



Rio's Legacy was also proud to contribute to the launch of the **first-ever National Action Plan for Paediatric Palliative Care** on 24th July 2023 at Very Special Kids, under the leadership of **Palliative Care Australia** and the **Federal Government**.

We have forged strong relationships with physicians and medical professionals across Western Sydney, including **Dr. Gautam** and **Professor John Whitehall** from the University of Western Sydney, who have been instrumental in supporting our vision.



Opportunity with Oran Park and the Perich Group

A significant milestone in 2023 was the Perich Group's offer of land in Oran Park as a potential site for the hospice. This pivotal moment was crucial as it provided Rio's Legacy with the opportunity to promote a central location in Western Sydney, bringing us one step closer to realising our vision.

We also received strong support from Dr. Mike Freeland, Federal Member for Macarthur, who has been a staunch advocate for our project and its potential to make a real difference in the region.

Rio'23 Challenge: Brisbane to Sydney

Our major fundraising event for 2023 was the **Rio'23 Challenge**, a 16-day run and ride from Brisbane to Sydney. Covering over 1,015 km, this gruelling challenge was designed to raise both awareness and funds for our Western Sydney hospice project. The journey began at **Hummingbird House** in Brisbane, Queensland's only children's hospice, and ended in **Oran Park**, one of the potential sites for our hospice.



Thanks to the incredible support of over **403 donations across 4 teams**, we successfully raised

\$65,668 for the project. The event received widespread media attention, including coverage on **Sunrise, ABC Breakfast, 9News, 10First News, 7News, The Latest, and 9Honey**, which helped to raise awareness of the need for paediatric palliative care facilities.



We are immensely grateful to our sponsors, whose generosity played a vital role in making the challenge a success.

Special thanks go to **Castle Hill Toyota, Suncamper Motorhomes, Coles, Mizuno, Havas Red, Hydrolyte, and Sunrice** for their support.

The Growing Support of the GWS Giants

During the Brisbane to Sydney Challenge, Rio's Legacy forged a significant relationship with the **GWS Giants**. AFL stars such as **Callan Ward**, **Toby Greene**, and others, alongside **Giants Foundation General Manager Nici Andronicus**, threw their support behind the cause. This collaboration marked a turning point for Rio's Legacy, as the GWS Giants' involvement helped us extend our reach and rally the Western Sydney community around our mission.



With the population of **Greater Western Sydney** expected to exceed 3 million by 2035, the need for a local paediatric palliative care facility is undeniable. Currently, only three specialist children's hospices serve all of Australia, meaning many families in Western Sydney must travel great distances to access care. Our vision is to provide a local solution, offering much-needed support to families during the most difficult times.

City2Surf 2023

Alongside the Rio'23 Challenge, Rio's Legacy also participated in the **City2Surf 2023**, where we raised **\$6,930.62** through the efforts of 30 fundraisers across 3 teams. With a combined total of **\$72,598.62** raised through both the **City2Surf** and the **Rio'23 Challenge**, we are immensely proud of the efforts of our community.

A Year of Growing Awareness and Support

In 2023/24, Rio's Legacy continued to raise its profile and build momentum towards creating a second children's hospice in NSW to support **Bear Cottage**. Through our efforts, Rio's Legacy has now raised **over \$844,203** in total. This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of our supporters, sponsors, and partners.

\$3 Million Donation Secured for the Hospice Build – Partnership with GWS Giants & Mounties Group

In June 2024, Rio's Legacy signed a tripartite agreement with the GWS Giants and Mounties Group, securing a \$3 million donation over three years. This partnership is instrumental in our plan to build a children's hospice in Western Sydney. We expect to receive \$1 million annually in FY25, FY26, and FY27 from this commitment.

Board Approval for Inaugural Rio's Legacy CEO

Considering the tripartite agreement between Rio's Legacy, the GWS Giants, and Mounties Group, the Rio's Legacy Board unanimously approved the creation of a CEO position to support the full-time management and strategic direction of the charity. This decision was made to further our mission to build a children's hospice in Western Sydney. As part of this transition, Ryan Fowler, Co-founder and

former Chairman, was appointed as the inaugural CEO of Rio's Legacy, effective 1st July 2024 (the start of FY25).



Looking Ahead to FY25

As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to our vision of building a hospice to provide compassionate care for children with life-limiting conditions and to support their families. We will continue to collaborate closely with the NSW Government, NSW Health, and our established partners, as well as future partners like the GWS Giants and Mounties Group, to bring this project to life. With Ryan Fowler stepping into the CEO role, we are poised to advance the Western Sydney Hospice project.

At Rio's Legacy, we believe that every child is fearfully and wonderfully made, and it is our responsibility to offer care and support to them and their families through the most challenging times. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we will make a lasting difference in the lives of countless families.

The Rio's Legacy Team

